

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A ~~computer-based, interactive~~ method for facilitating the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) conducting a preliminary physical examination of the patient and making a preliminary diagnosis based on the preliminary physical examination that the patient has a particular medical disorder;

(b) after the performance of step (a), ~~entering into the computer system~~ obtaining a paper template having only one sheet of paper, the one sheet of paper having preprinted information identifying listing signs or symptoms that might be exhibited by one afflicted with the particular medical disorder;

(c) ~~after the performance of step (b), outputting from the computer system information about the particular medical disorder~~ and information identifying listing other medical disorders that might be confused with the particular medical disorder;

(d) ~~(c)~~ after the performance of step (b), consulting the paper template for information prompting the user to further examine ~~said the~~ patient for ~~one or more predefined the~~ signs or symptoms ~~that might be exhibited by one afflicted with the particular medical disorder~~ listed on the paper template; and

(e) ~~(d)~~ after the performance of step ~~(d)~~ (c), conducting a further examination of the patient to determine whether the patient is exhibiting the signs or symptoms listed on the paper template and ~~entering into the computer system onto the paper template hand written~~ information identifying those of the one or more ~~predefined~~ signs or symptoms listed on the paper template that are exhibited by the patient.

2-6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting the information about the particular medical disorder, the predefined signs or symptoms exhibited by the patient and the patient data to another user or to the patient's medical record.

8-21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in connection with providing health care to a patient, comprising:

a set of paper templates, each of the paper templates directed to a different medical disorder, one of which medical disorders the patient has been preliminarily diagnosed as being afflicted with based on a preliminary physical examination of the patient, each of the paper templates provided with:

preprinted information prompting the user to further examine the patient for one or more predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

preprinted information prompting the user to conduct one or more predefined tests that could be used to determine the presence or severity of the respective medical disorder;

preprinted information prompting the user to recommend one or more predefined treatments that could be administered to treat the respective medical disorder; and

at least one field for entry of patient data;

wherein each of said paper templates is adapted for hand written annotation by a user to indicate:

the user's observation that the patient exhibits one or more of the predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined tests should be conducted to confirm that the patient is afflicted by the respective medical disorder; and

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined treatments should be administered to treat the patient.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein one of the templates can be removed from the set of templates without damaging the remaining templates.

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein each of the templates is printed on paper encased in transparent plastic.

26-28. (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the set of templates is bound into a handbook.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises one or more templates including reference data comprising normal values or value ranges for the one or more tests.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises a vision chart.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

(~~f~~) (e) consulting the paper template for information prompting the user to conduct a differential diagnosis of the patient based on the information identifying other medical disorders that might be confused with the particular medical disorder.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

(~~g~~) (f) consulting the paper template for information prompting the user to conduct a work up of said patient, the work up comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder; and

(~~h~~) (g) entering into the computer system onto the paper template hand written information identifying those of the one or more predefined work up elements conducted on the patient.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 33 further comprising the steps of:

(~~i~~) (h) consulting the paper template for information prompting the user to recommend a treatment plan for the patient, the treatment plan comprising one or more predefined elements based on the information identifying the particular medical disorder; and

(~~j~~) (i) entering into the computer system onto the paper template hand written information identifying those of the one or more predefined treatment plan elements recommended for the patient.

35. (cancelled)

36. (new) A template for use in connection with providing health care to a patient, comprising:

a paper template directed to a medical disorder which the patient has been preliminarily diagnosed as being afflicted with based on a preliminary physical examination of the patient, the paper template provided with:

information prompting the user to further examine the patient for one or more predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

information prompting the user to conduct one or more predefined tests that could be used to determine the presence or severity of the respective medical disorder;

information prompting the user to recommend one or more predefined treatments that could be administered to treat the respective medical disorder; and

at least one field for entry of patient data;

wherein said paper template is adapted for a hand written annotation by a user to indicate:

the user's observation that the patient exhibits one or more of the predefined signs and/or symptoms associated with the respective medical disorder;

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined tests should be conducted to confirm that the patient is afflicted by the respective medical disorder; and

the user's opinion that one or more of the predefined treatments should be administered to treat the patient.

37. (new) The template of claim 36 wherein the paper template is of a size capable of being easily transported in a pocket of a typical laboratory coat of a health care practitioner.

38. (new) The template of claim 36 wherein the paper template is composed essentially of a single sheet of paper in a transparent plastic cover.

39. (new) The template of claim 38 wherein the transparent plastic cover is adapted for being marked and having the marks wiped clean.

40. (new) The template of claim 36 wherein the paper template includes a title of the medical disorder, a field for patient identification data, descriptive information about the medical disorder relating to the etiology of the disorder, a list of signs and symptoms of the disorder; differential diagnoses for the disorder; a list of tests used to confirm or evaluate the disorder; a list of treatments for the disorder, and information of particular note about the disorder.

41. (new) The template of claim 36 wherein the paper template is a single page with a title of the medical disorder, a field for patient identification data, descriptive information about the medical disorder relating to the etiology of the disorder, a list of signs and symptoms of the disorder, differential diagnoses for the disorder, a list of tests used to confirm or evaluate the

disorder, a list of treatments for the disorder and information of particular note about the disorder on one side of the page and with the opposite side of the page including a field for recording laboratory test results and signs determined from a physical examination of the patient, a field for recording medications that the patient is taking or receiving, and a field for recording additional notes, comments, or information relating to the disorder or the patient.

42. (new) The template of claim 41 wherein the opposite side also illustrates separation of signs and symptoms into groups that commonly occur together or are associated with a particular form of the disorder.

43. (new) The template of claim 41 wherein the one side includes a section for listing follow-up procedures used for patients with the medical disorder and a section describing staging criteria used with the disorder.

44. (new) The template of claim 36 in combination with a plurality of additional templates, the combination comprising a pad of a plurality of the same template.

45. (new) The template of claim 36 in combination with a plurality of additional templates, the combination comprising a pad of a plurality of different templates.